



# Healing

## God Is Our Healer

Begin the small group study with a time of fellowship. Have the students discuss the following questions. Use this lighthearted discussion as a lead-in to the study topic.

**1. Have you ever faked or exaggerated an illness to get out of something you didn't want to do? How did the situation work out? Did you get caught?** *(Note that people sometimes fake or exaggerate an illness to get out of an unpleasant task, or to allow them to miss work in favor of taking a vacation day or attending a special event.)*

**2. What's the sickest you've ever been? How did you handle the situation?** *(Be sensitive to the feelings of those who may not want to talk about a personal illness. Note that some people suffering from chronic illness become bitter, despondent, or cynical. But as Christians, we are able to turn to God for help.)*

Sickness is an issue every human being will face at one time or another. In addition to our own struggles with disease, we also experience times when those we love are sick—sometimes in critical and uncertain circumstances. Yet we don't have to resign ourselves to the inevitable of a long recovery, or even chronic illness. Christians have been given the incredible promise that God heals, and He will do so today just as He did in Bible times.



## HEALING DISCUSSION

### **1. What would you say is the first response most Christians have when sickness strikes, and why?**

*(There is a tendency even among Christians to immediately check the medicine cabinet or make an appointment with the doctor. It's human nature to want to be in control of the situation, to find an answer we can understand and even dictate. We also might struggle with our conviction that healing will really work, or even question why God would want to heal us when we have failed Him in the past.)*

### **2. What do you think about professing Christians who refuse to take medicines or seek the help of medical professionals because they fear they would be violating God's will? (Colossians 4:14; 1 Timothy 5:23)**

Note that Luke was a doctor as well as a distinguished and respected Christian leader. Also, Paul encouraged Timothy to use the medicine of the day to counteract illness. Furthermore, Jesus indicated the validity of the medical profession in the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:34, and He acknowledged the need for doctors in Matthew 9:12.

*(While a strong conviction that God can and does heal is important, it can be dangerous and irresponsible not to take advantage of care that is available. God created humanity with an amazing capacity to understand the function of the human body. While we must never disregard the possibility and reality of divine healing, and pray for it to take place, we must also recognize that God can use human knowledge and ability to deal with sickness and other physical problems.)*

### **3. How can we respond to people who believe that if a Christian gets sick it's because of sin in his or her life? (John 9:1-3)**

*(Sickness and sin can be connected; that fact has been true since the beginning, when sin brought its horrible consequences to humanity. While it is possible that God might use sickness to judge a person for sinning, it cannot be assumed that a person's illness is a direct result of sin. Every human being, believer or unbeliever, is subject to sickness and other physical problems.)*

#### **4. How do we reconcile the doctrine of divine healing with the fact that there are sincere, strong Christians who pray continually for healing but never get well? (Job 2:3-8; 2 Corinthians 12:7)**

Job was a faithful man of God [See Job 1:1] and Paul was an apostle who wrote much of the New Testament. Yet both of them suffered maladies of various forms, not because of sin but for a higher purpose.

*(This is a difficult question to fully answer from a human perspective. It doesn't seem fair that Christians should have to suffer for months or even years without healing. Yet we must trust in God's wisdom and sovereignty, realizing that even though He loves us supremely, there are matters of His will and purpose that are beyond our perception and understanding at this time. We also must realize that our bodies are imperfect, subject to weakness, illness, and eventually death.)*

#### **5. How does the doctrine of divine healing apply to people who struggle with emotional wounds and forms of depression? (Psalm 34:18; 146:5-8; 147:3; 1 Corinthians 15:52-54)**

Note that our present, physical bodies are naturally temporary and corruptible. It is only in the end, when we are raised or raptured, that we will experience perfection and be free from physical restraints. Note that one great joy of heaven is that there will be no pain or crying or death (Revelation 21:1,4), indicating that Christians, like everyone else, experience the deteriorating effects of this physical world.

*(Human suffering is not only physical. Mental or emotional anguish, such as depression, can be just as debilitating. The Lord certainly understands emotional anguish as He experienced fierce opposition from His accusers and carried the unimaginable weight of the world's sins to the Cross. He understands human suffering on every level and is able to bring healing to every circumstance we face.)*

#### **6. What steps should we take when we face illness, injury, or other infirmities? (James 5:13-16)**

*(While our first reaction might be to go to the medicine cabinet or call the doctor, there are steps we can take to experience God's divine healing. Wonderful power is available through the prayers of fellow believers. Thus, we're wise to seek the spiritual support of Christian leaders and friends. Divine healing has been a reality throughout history and is available to us today.)*

# HEALING DISCUSSION / Q & A

**1. What would you say is the first response most Christians have when sickness strikes, and why?**

**2. What do you think about professing Christians who refuse to take medicines or seek the help of medical professionals because they fear they would be violating God's will?**

Colossians 4:14  
1 Timothy 5:23  
Luke 10:34  
Matthew 9:12

**3. How can we respond to people who believe that if a Christian gets sick it's because of sin in his or her life?**

John 9:1-3

**4. How do we reconcile the doctrine of divine healing with the fact that there are sincere, strong Christians who pray continually for healing but never get well?**

Job 2:3-8  
2 Corinthians 12:7

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Psalm 34:18  
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